

## Phishing e-mails, phone calls, or links



One of the newest fraud schemes is called "phishing" and involves sending out thousands of e-mails fishing for personal information later used to commit identity theft. These e-mails either take you to a counterfeit site or install a keyboard logger when you click on the link. Either way, the thief then captures your personal information. We have taken a number of these reports from West Linn victims. One of these victims had his account accessed within 20 minutes after submitting his information.

The "phishing" e-mails all share some common elements:

1. They will be addressed to "dear account holder" or something similar. If this was your bank or a business you deal with they will probably know your name.
2. There will be some reason why you need to respond. **"Verify your account"** They will tell you they noticed unusual recent activity or just performed an audit of your account.
3. There will be some statement of urgency, often that **your account will be frozen** if you do not respond immediately.
4. They might ask you to make a phone call. Phone phishing scams direct you to call a customer support phone number. A person or an audio response unit waits to take your account number, personal identification number, password, or other valuable personal data.

For more information on "phishing" and how to protect yourself check out this informative link.

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/email/phishing/video1.msp>

- [Police](#)

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